



**D. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1           1.       (currently amended) A football configured for use in competitive play  
2       and for grasping by a user's hand, the football ~~game ball~~ comprising:

3                   a casing having a laced region; and

4                   a an outwardly extending lacing coupled to the laced region of the  
5       casing, the lacing having an exposed surface, at least a portion of the exposed surface  
6       of the lacing having a pebbled texture.

1           2.       (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the entire exposed surface  
2       of the lacing includes the pebbled texture.

1           3.       (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the pebbled texture  
2       comprises a plurality of spaced apart pebble-like projections.

1           4.       (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2       of projections consist of any combination of at least two shapes selected from the group  
3       consisting of irregularly shaped pebble-like projections, hemi-spherically shaped  
4       projections, generally oval shaped projections, generally triangular shaped projections,  
5       generally square shaped projections, generally rectangular shaped projections,  
6       generally diamond shaped projections, generally pentagon-shaped projections, other  
7       polygonal shaped projections, conical projections, frustoconical projections, cylindrical  
8       projections, pyramid-shaped projections, and cubic projections.

1           5.       (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections  
2       are arranged in a generally evenly spaced pattern across at least a portion of the  
3       exposed surface.

1           6.       (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections  
2 are randomly arranged across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1           7.       (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections  
2 are generally of equal size.

1           8.       (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections  
2 include projections of two or more different sizes.

1           9.       (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein each of the pebble-like  
2 projections has a maximum length and a maximum width, and wherein the maximum  
3 length and the maximum width define an aspect ratio of within 0.2 and 5.0.

1           10.      (original) The game ball of claim 9, wherein the aspect ratio is within  
2 0.33 and 3.0.

1           11.      (original) The game ball of claim 4 wherein the lacing includes at least  
2 one longitudinally extending segment and a plurality of transversely extending  
3 segments, wherein the plurality of projections on the longitudinally extending segment  
4 have a first shape, and wherein the plurality of projections on the transversely  
5 extending segment have a second shape.

1           12.      (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the entire exposed surface  
2 of the lacing includes a plurality of pebble-like projections.

1           13.      (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer includes the  
3 exposed surface, and wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more materials  
4 selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane  
5 impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, a metal wire,  
6 a plastic, a vinyl, a polymer, a latex, a rope, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1           14.   (currently amended) The game ball of claim 13 ~~42~~ wherein the outer  
2 layer is made of an outer material selected from the group consisting of a wet process  
3 polyurethane, a dry process polyurethane, a coagulated polyurethane, a  
4 polyvinylchloride foam, a rubber, a polymeric material, an elastomeric material, and a  
5 combination thereof.

1           Claims 15-50 are canceled.

1           51.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are irregularly shaped pebble-like projections.

1           52.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are hemi-spherically shaped projections.

1           53.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally oval shaped projections.

1           54.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally triangular shaped projections.

1           55.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally square shaped projections.

1           56.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally rectangular shaped projections.

1           57.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally diamond shaped projections.

1           58.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are generally pentagon-shaped projections.

1           59.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are polygonal shaped projections.

1           60.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are conical projections.

1           61.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are frustoconical projections.

1           62.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are cylindrical projections.

1           63.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are pyramid-shaped projections.

1           64.   (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality  
2 of projections are cubic projections